

AIR POUCH

SOFA-469

K-15

Chief, EE

13 November 1952

Chief, FHB

ATTN: ☐

OPERATIONAL/CALL

Contact Report -- Meeting of 6 November 1952 with K-15

1. On 6 November 1952, the undersigned met K-15 at the Hotel Reichspost in Heidelberg. K-15 was already waiting when I arrived at the hotel at approximately 1800 hours. The first thing he mentioned was surprise at the outcome of the U.S. election. He did not appear to be greatly pleased with the outcome, but at the same time said that Eisenhower certainly was an able man who knew European problems. K-15 then interrupted the discussion of the election by saying that it was too bad I had not arrived 10 minutes earlier as I could have met K-137 who had just departed. He had discussed, according to his statement, the possibility of further investigation of K-221 with K-137 who had originally recruited K-221. In addition, they had discussed operational problems such as training schedules and other agents known to K-137. (K-137 is K-15's number one legume.)

2. We then ordered dinner and discussed the U.S. elections. K-15 did not remark on his statement that Eisenhower was a capable man, but took the occasion to remind me that Eisenhower, in the eyes of many Germans, (according to K-15) was still connected with the "Morgenthau Plan" and it was Eisenhower who appointed another Morgenthau believer, General McNamara as U.S. Military Governor in 1945. (I have never seen K-15 fail to rub in the "Morgenthau Plan idea" whenever he gets the opportunity to do so.) He then had a long discussion on comparison of the American Election System with those of European countries. Throughout dinner and during our two hour meeting that followed, K-15 was very congenial and very sure of himself.

3. "Election promises" were brought up by K-15 who mentioned that Eisenhower said he would reduce taxes. This seemed to worry him in that it might affect American contribution to NATO. At the same time he brought forth a discussion of German taxes, with K-15 elaborating on how high taxes were in Germany and how high the cost of living was for himself and other persons of the upper middle class while the workers had it much better. He said he was in the strata of the population who really felt the high cost of living for they still had to maintain a certain standard of living. This he said included membership in various groups, organizations, etc., belonged to for business and social reasons. Using himself as an example he said he is a member of FIVE Veterans organizations -- "BBS, Selbsthilfe, Deutscher Alpenjagdersoldaten Verband and a couple others" (his own words).

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4. We then discussed other everyday subjects. K-15, looking out the window, said that the weather was pretty bad and had to be in Augsburg the following morning at 8:00 to appear in court. Astonished I asked "court"? He elaborated by saying that it was not a criminal or civil court, but a labor court, and then went into a long involved story about the young girl he had employed as a housemaid; how he had fired her; and how he had to appear in labor court because she filed a complaint about her dismissal. Briefly, the young girl had a boyfriend who visited her at K-15's home on many occasions. K-15 said neither he nor his wife objected to this as long as it did not interfere with her work and they carried on their courtship with decorum. However, the maid and her friend were ardent courtiers and took every opportunity to love make in the collar, garden, garage and/or other obscure places in K-15's home. This, K-15/17-15 did not approve of and after making embarrassing discoveries on several occasions, K-15 fired the maid on the spot one day in September. According to K-15, the girl's father took the matter up with his trade union, which in a labor court session, charged K-15 with firing the maid without due notice (two weeks, according to German law) and without cause. K-15, of course, maintained that he had ample cause and that he had even offered to give the girl a second chance two weeks after he had her pack her bags. The whole affair K-15 blames on the girl's father who is a Silonian, whom K-15 says, the word German derogatory name for a Silonian, "Kamantchepf", fits very aptly. The tale of his difficulties with his housemaid closed with K-15 blaming American Military Government for making labor courts - really a mediation board - which were set up long before the war by the German Government, more powerful than ever during the post war years.

5. We then adjourned to our new safehouse in Heidelberg, which K-15 had never seen before, a three room affair which is very suitable as an office and meeting place. Operational problems were then taken up, the first of which was the scheduling of K-191 for what we hope will be his final W/T training session at Weeding. K-15 said that he had made arrangements for the man to come into training sometime during the week of November 10-15 and would let us know within the next few days the exact date and how long K-191 would have free.

6. The K-177 case was next - with K-15 saying he had not heard any additional word on his dickering for the Ganshans at Gropsh. However, no matter what happens with the Ganshans, K-15 says that K-177 will be able to come into training for a three or four-day final finishing-off course within the next month.

7. Equipping of agents was then taken up next and K-15 reported that the second coach with covert compartment would be given either to K-161 or K-191. K-127 will start the second coach in the near future.

8. I then started a discussion on the case of K-221 (see NKFA 468). I mentioned that it appeared that K-221 had been recruited without us knowing too much about him. I recalled to K-15's attention that his Part II stated that K-137 had known K-221 for over a year while, according to K-221, the acquaintanceship had been only for ten or fifteen minutes. K-15 jumped on this by saying that yes, it was true that K-137 had not known the man personally before, but had known of him through his parents-in-law who are neighbors of K-221, and through

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K-163 (one of the undercover sub-agents in the K-15 Net who is an inspector in the Rhine Police). I expressed my fears about several things regarding K-221. In addition to his explanation of the recruiting which I said I did not approve of because of its looseness, other various fears were: 1) that the man spoke too good English; 2) he was entirely too inquisitive and had too facetious an attitude. K-15 was taken aback by these comments, but added they could be easily fixed up by the next time we met K-221 for he and K-137 had planned to orient him thoroughly in the next several weeks and that he and K-137 also planned to investigate the man themselves. K-15 then stated that he had done some investigating of K-221 himself by contacting K-221's former commanding officer who was a personal friend of K-15's (the name I could not elicit). The commanding officer highly recommended K-221 as an intelligent man, professional, and who had a deep hate for the Russians. I let K-15 know that notwithstanding all these good points about the man, I was still disappointed with the way he was brought into the organization and that there were too many unknown quantities involved.

10. I followed this discussion up with our perennial discussion of FRQ's. K-15 faithfully promised to have FRQ's forthcoming on all the agents considered active in his Net. I complimented him on the production of the list of thirty-three "active" agents saying that it pleased me and my superiors very much, but that we still required FRQ's on all persons in the operation immediately.

11. I have not had a telephone installed in the new office in Heidelberg because I was displeased with the amount of telephoning K-15 had previously done from the old safehouse, despite my frequent castigations. I explained this to him and said I thought it could be best not to have a phone or that if we did, it should be used only for incoming calls and that all callers should be told to call from a public phone booth. He agreed and said now that he had the new house he thought it would be a nice idea to make sure that he was in the Heidelberg office only during a certain period of time every week and that all agents who needed to contact him would be told to contact him during this specific period of time by phone. He agreed we could not use the phone for out-going calls. We then discussed mail communications and I stated there should be no mail communications at this address in Heidelberg. Again he agreed and said we needed a letter drop -- either American or German -- which could be used for any mail or telegram communications found necessary in the operation. Both of us will attempt to set up a letter drop in Heidelberg vicinity in the near future. Preferably it should be an American controlled letter drop which might be used as a possible check on K-15 and his activities. Efforts will be made to find one in this category.

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